

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRA-
TION OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 4 does not outlaw flag desecration; rather, this proposal merely sets the boundaries by which Congress can enact subsequent legislation, if it so chooses, to prohibit such conduct. H.J. Res. 4 simply returns to Congress the authority that it possessed for over 200 years to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

This past week, I visited North Korea, where freedom is nowhere and democratic thought is oppressed. Our American flag is the most revered and beloved symbol of our Nation, representing all that is American and reminding the world of our love of our freedom and democracy. The flag is a bedrock of our principles and values as a country, leading our men and women into conflicts around the globe and draping the caskets of those same individuals when they return home after giving the ultimate sacrifice in defense of such values. It is the flag to which we pledge allegiance, here on the floor of the House of Representatives, in civic organizations in every town in America, and in schools throughout our country. It is this object and all that it represents that Americans hold so dear.

House Joint Resolution 4 will nullify two erroneous Supreme Court decisions, restoring the original interpretation to the First Amendment that had persisted for over two centuries since the birth of our country. When considering the powers of our respective branches of government in effecting the will of the American people, we should be reminded of the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address in 1861, "If the policy of the government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers."

I commend my colleagues for recognizing the wishes of the American people and restoring the original interpretation and understanding of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights to the Constitution by supporting this resolution.

COLONEL TIMOTHY WRIGHTON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual and patriot whose dedication and contributions to his country and the military community of March Air Reserve Base, March ARB, in Riverside, CA, are exceptional. March ARB has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Colonel Timothy Wrighton is one of these individuals. On June 6, 2003, he will be honored at a farewell celebration and dinner.

After completing his education at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and receiving a degree in engineering Tim completed his undergraduate pilot training in 1976 and in 1977 he became a First Lieutenant. Tim served as a C-141 pilot for the 53rd Military Airlift Squadron out of Norton Air Force Base in California from 1976 to 1982 during which time he was promoted to Captain. In 1984, he was assigned as the chief pilot for the 728th Military Airlift Squadron. Three years later he was promoted to Major and was assigned as the chief of wing standardization/evaluation for the 445th Airlift Wing at Norton and would later become assistant deputy commander for operations. Over the next 13 years he would be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and then Colonel. Since 2002 he has been the Commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March Air Reserve Base. Col. Wrighton has logged over 7,800 flight hours in a variety of aircraft including the C-141 A/B, KC-10, and KC-135R.

Col. Wrighton has received numerous awards throughout his distinguished career including: Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Air Medal; Aerial Achievement Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; Air Force Training Ribbon; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Saudi Arabian Government.

Col. Wrighton is also a life member and Chapter President of the Reserve Officers' Association, a Life Member of the Airlift/Tanker Association, Life Member of the AFA, a Life Member of the VFW and a Member of Daedalians.

Col. Wrighton's tireless commitment to service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the country and the community of Riverside, CA. I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his patriotic service and salute him.

HONORING MELVIN E. OLSSON

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Melvin E. Olsson of Mystic, CT, for his dedicated service to the community throughout his 43-year career at Electric Boat in Groton, CT.

Yesterday, for the first time in 13 years, Mel Olsson's name did not appear on the ballot for the Marine Draftsmen's Association, MDA, union elections at Electric Boat. Olsson is retiring from his post as president of the local 571 at Electric Boat and will return to his trade as piping designer.

Mel began as an apprentice in the shipyard in 1962 and moved to the design force just 2 years later. Elected vice president of the local in 1975, Olsson has dedicated much of his career to serving the MDA.

I commend Mel Olsson for his dedicated service to the working men and women of Electric Boat who design the best submarines in the world. He has worked to establish a re-

lationship with the company that is better than it has ever been. Mel is a true leader in his community and a role model for the future leaders of the MDA.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Melvin Olsson for his 13 years of service as head of the MDA. I wish him all the best.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO POLICE
CHIEF LONNIE WESTPHAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated his life to protecting the American public. Lonnie Westphal of Lakespur, Colorado first donned the badge of a Colorado State Patrolman 29 years ago. This week he will retire from the force after an impressive career in which he rose in the ranks from a state trooper to the head of the Colorado State Patrol.

Chief Westphal is one of those special people in our society who willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the public. He knew he would never get rich in his chosen profession, but he also knew that some things, such as keeping our families out of harm's way, come with rewards not measured by monetary means. Thus, it is not surprising that Chief Westphal distinguished himself so honorably by serving on numerous boards such as the National Commission Against Drunk Driving, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the State Patrol Protective Association, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes a great debt to Chief Westphal and all brave heroes like him who keep the peace at home. Because of his service, the state of Colorado is a better and safer place to live. I thank Chief Westphal for his service to his community, the State of Colorado, and this nation. All the best to you, Lonnie; enjoy your retirement!

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.
DONALD WALLACE OF FLORENCE

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wallace of Florence, AL. For 23 years, they have provided outstanding service to the American Legion—Mr. Wallace as adjutant and Mrs. Wallace as his assistant.

Mr. Wallace began serving the American Legion as an assistant to the former adjutant and will be retiring later this month. As adjutant, Mr. Wallace was charged with maintaining both the records and activities of the group of over 1,000; however, he did not limit himself to those tasks. Mr. Wallace helped rebuild